

**REMARKS**

Claims 2-28 have been canceled without prejudice and new claims 29-37 directed to methods using the methyl ester of methionine have been added. Support for new claims 29-37 can be found throughout the specification and in particular at page 7, line 11 and Example 2. Additionally, support for new claims 29 and 30 appears in original claims 1 and 2, respectively. Support for claims 31-33 appears in original claims 13-15, and support for new claims 34-37 appears in original claims 24 and 26-28.

An early and favorable Office Action is requested.

Dated: January 16, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By Liza D. Hohenschutz  
Liza D. Hohenschutz  
Registration No.: 33,712  
CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP  
P. O. Box 2207  
Wilmington, Delaware 19899-2207  
302-658-9141  
Attorneys for Applicant

LDH/alh/310066